



The Blurb



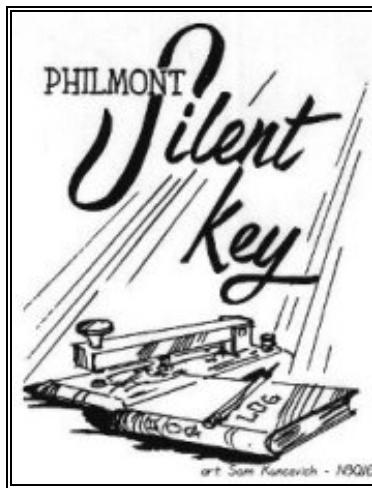
Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

62 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2011

Volume 61 Number 12

www.phil-mont.org

December 2011



AL BUBECK, K3GNM, SK

ALLEN BUBECK Allen F. Bubeck, 93, died Tuesday evening, November 1, 2011 at Brittany Pointe Estates in Lansdale. Born in Philadelphia, the son of the late Ferdinand and Ida (Keinath) Bubeck. He graduated from Simon Gratz High School, Class of 1938, and attended Temple University. Allen worked for the U.S. Navy as an Electrical Engineer for many years. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale. Allen was a member of the Philmont Radio Club. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Marion E. (Casey) Bubeck; a son, Dr. Robert A. Bubeck, of Midland, MI; and a daughter-in-law, Judith L. Bubeck of Collegeville. He was the grandfather of Kathryn A. Bubeck, Newark, NJ, and James R. Bubeck of Washington, D.C. He was preceded in death by a son, Thomas W. Bubeck; and two grandsons, Sgt. John T. Bubeck, who was killed in Iraq, Dec. 26, 2006, and Robert W. Bubeck. Funeral Service was held 11AM Monday, Nov. 7 in Trinity Lutheran Church, 1000 W. Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446. Interment is private. In lieu of flowers please send donations in his name to Trinity Lutheran Church at address above. Arrangements are by the Shelly-Dinan Funeral Home, Lansdale.

Al was a member of Phil-Mont for many years, but was not active lately. He was a true gentleman and will be remembered fondly by those who met him at club events. Some will remember him being an early adopter of Apple computers at a time when Apple was in its infancy. I'm sure he will be telling Steve Jobs a thing or two. Rest in peace, Al. – Ed, KB3IV

The Blurb is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. **Copying and quoting** is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. **Subscriptions** are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer.

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Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.

Directors:

W3AOK (11)
WA3KIO (11)
N3XKE (11)
KB2ERL (12)
W3STW (12)
WU3I (12)
ND3B (A)

Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88

Abington, PA 19001
<http://www.phil-mont.org>
Website: Eric N3QV & Andrew KC2PMW

For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV

Sunday Morning Net Schedules

- **2 Meter/ 70cm Net** at 0930L on W3QV repeater
- **10-on-10 Net** at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
- **75 meter Net** at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB
- **ARES** at 2100L on the W3QV repeater

Committees
Archives: NG3P
Audit: NS3K
Blurb folding: KB3IV & N3GLU
Directory: KB3IV

DX: N3MT
Emerg.Coor: K3HWE
Field Day: KE3QB
Internet: N3QV & KC2PMW
Membership: N3XKE

Net Control: KB3IV
Publicity: W3RM
Program: Club VP
Public Service: KE3QB
Refreshments: W3AOK
Repeater: W3AOK

Scholarship: W3RM
Skywarn: WX3PHI
Sunshine: N3GLU
VE Program: NS3K
Welcome: N3UBY
Youth: N3MT

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmcclloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV

The Officers

Pres: KB3IV Ed Masarsky 310 Saw Mill Ln. Horsham PA 19044 kb3iv@comcast.net

Vice Pres: N3QV Eric D. Marano, PO BOX 233, Skippack PA 19474 n3qv@arrl.net

Sec: KB3MIV Jen Miller 9427 Kirkwood Rd. 1st Fl. Phila 19114 jencaz@verizon.net

Treas: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net

Asst. Treas: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez ...

The Prez Sez, thank you. Thanks to all the members who showed up and participated in our club activities this year. And thanks to those behind the scenes, who may not have been seen or heard, but contributed to the success of Phil-Mont. If I try to start naming people, I know I will leave someone out who deserves recognition. So let's consider this a group job well done.

We usually have the minutes of the board meeting published, but the secretary had to be at work and we all were so engrossed in issues, that no one wrote anything down. I will try to highlight the important points of the meeting.

1. We had a quorum and were able to conduct the business of the board.
2. The treasurer said we were solvent and would be awarding two scholarships for the coming year.
3. We decided on a slate of officers for 2012 and will actually have a vote at this month's meeting. The ballot and absentee voting instructions can be found elsewhere in this issue of The Blurb.
4. The board discussed and voted to change its monthly meetings to bi-monthly. This means that we will be meeting Jan-Mar-May-Sept-Nov. If any important issues need immediate attention, we will address them by phone and e-mail.
5. The board expressed a special thank you to Gwen, NG3P, for maintaining and managing the club archives. Thanks, Gwen, for your many years of service. Bill, W3AOK and Steve, WU3I picked up the archives. They will be sorted and where possible converted to durable media.

Keep the date of Wednesday Jan 11, 2012 open. We will be holding our annual Auction Fest that evening. More news will be available in the Jan Blurb.

Sharon and I send our fondest wishes for a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and joyous holiday season to all the Phil-Mont members and their families. We also wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

de Ed, KB3IV

***Phil-Mont
Birthdays & Tidbytes***

December Birthdays

01 Eric Marano - N3QV
02 Don Gordon -WB3KOJ
Patricia Katz (XYL N3OWM)

08 Jules Stein - KB3AFH

19 Larry Stevenson - K3HWE
21 Rick Spencer - N3FD
24 Richard DeVirgiliis – ND3B
Marty Weinberg - WP4MSX

25 Jim McCloskey - NS3K
27 Mindy Pollack (XYL N3VLC)

Membership Stats

At press time PMRC had:
80 Full Paid Members
8 Family Members
6 Youth Members
1 Honorary Member
2 Pending Members

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***There's a Saturday session on the 10th this month at 9 a.m.
Along with the Thursday evening VE session on the 22nd.
As always, many thanks to our VE team!***

From the Secretary

Minutes of the General Meeting – November 9, 2011

President KB3IV called the annual “Old Timer’s Night” meeting to order at 2010 hours. Ed gave a special welcome to the Old Timers present, including Sam, K3GBA; Larry, W3UY; Bob, W3NE; Jack, K3CHR; Dick, W3RM; and Al, W3STW...among others.

Treasurer W3RM, reported that, notwithstanding recent substantial expenditures for repeater antennas and coax replacements on the tower, our treasury remains in satisfactory condition...mainly through the sale of generous equipment contributions to the club. He further noted that the club awarded three ham radio scholarships for 2011-12, with grants totaling \$5,000. The Board has authorized two scholarships for the academic year 2012-13, each with a \$2,000 grant.

Membership Chair Gene, N3XKE, has prepared new membership packets for Michael Vincent, N3TOX, and Brandon Szalai, KB3VYD.

Jim, NS3K, sadly reported the very recent passing of Ray Heffernan, N3FH, a former club member and director. Details were in the November Blurb. Jim also reminded members that the “D-Star” group holds meetings, at the Ambler Ambulance

Association, on first non-holiday Mondays at 1900 hours. Visitors are welcome, and the group can be contacted on their K3PDR/repeater, 447.625 (-5).

Ed, KB3IV, reminded the members that the annual meeting, and elections, will be held at the December general meeting. He read the report of the nominating committee, and then invited additional nominations from the floor. There being none, upon motion, the nominations were closed. The slate will be included in the December Blurb.

New Member applications were received from Bryan Kobe, KB3WHR, and Randy Aiken, KB3WHN, both of whom were introduced at the meeting. Additionally, Doug Crompton, WA3DSP, a former member, has applied for membership reinstatement.

Respectfully submitted,

W3STW Acting Secretary

Have you heard about D-Star?

Philadelphia Digital Radio Assn meets the first non-holiday Monday of each month at the Community Ambulance Assn 1440 East Butler Pike Ambler, Pa. 19002 at 7:00 pm.

The club has two D-star repeaters on the following frequencies: On two meters - 146.61 (-) and on 70 cm 445.18125 (-)

I run a weekly club D-star net on Mondays at 8:00 pm local time on the club 2 meter frequency.

de Jim, NS3K

BALLOT FOR PMRC 2012 CLUB OFFICERS

PresidentKB2ERL Robert Nicotera
Vice President.....W3STW Al Tribble
Treasurer.....W3RM Richard Moll
Secretary.....KB3MIV Jennifer Miller

DIRECTORS
Vote For Three For A Two Year Term

N3QV Eric Marano

WA3KIO Fred Rice

ND3B Rick DeVirgiliis

W3MHP Frank Kohn

KB3SJS John Simon

You may vote in person by attending the Annual Meeting of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club being held on December 14, 2011.

If you are unable to attend the meeting to place your vote, you may cast an absentee ballot one of two ways.

1. E-mail your choices to The Judge of Elections, KB3IV, Ed Masarsky, at
kb3iv@arrl.net
2. Call KB3IV at 215-520-5166 which is his cell phone.

Absentee ballots may be submitted up to December 14 at 4:00 PM

Many thanks to our senior members for coming to the November meeting and sharing their years of experiences with the club and special thanks to those who provided transportation.



Back row left to right:

Al Tribble W3STW, Bill Popovic W3AOK, Jack Wright K3CHR, Sam Snith K3GBA, Al Kaufman K3ZMJ

Front row left to right:

Dick Moll W3RM, Steve Hoch WU3I, Ed Masarsky KB3IV, Larry Clifford W3UY, Bob Thomas W3NE

The following radio amateurs have applied for PMRC membership:

Occupation: Retired
(Doug is a former member, applying for reinstatement. No board action required)

Bryan D. Kobe - KB3WHR (Bryan)

334 Meadow Brook Road

North Wales, PA 19454

DOB: 03/06/1988

Home Phone: 215-699-3664

License Class: Technician (Expires 06/02/2021)

Email address: sparkplug781@gmail.com

Occupation: Electrical Engineering

de Dick, W3RM

Randall L. Aiken - KB3WHN (Randy)

3127 Spring Mill Road

Plymouth Meeting, PA 19047

DOB: 10/15/1944

Home: 215-852-1724 Work: 215-663-1060

License Class: Technician (Expires 08/02/2021)

Email address: randy3038@aol.com

Occupation: HVAC

Douglas S. Crompton - WA3DSP (Doug)

1269 2nd. Street Pike

Richboro, PA 18954-2021

DOB: 05/15/1950

Home Phone: 215-355-5307

License Class: Advanced (Expires 10/30/2020)

Email address: doug@crompton.com

THE TVI BATTLES

They weren't pretty

Bob Thomas, W3NE

Mention of television interference (TVI) at the November meeting dredged up memories of the early history of Phil-Mont when the term "mobile radio" acquired new significance. It (TVI) began about a year after the war ended, as the first post war TV receivers began to appear. They were expensive and highly prized by adventurous first-adopters who had shelled out upwards of \$400 for a 10" black and white set. At that same time hams were beginning to get back on the air, many using the rigs they had left behind when they entered the service. It didn't take long for the two events to collide, as some owners of those expensive TV sets began to have their viewing pleasure ruined by black bars or herring-bone patterns floating across

the screen and sometimes total loss of pictures for their favorite programs. *TVI was born!*

Most transmitters at that time, if they were not old pre-war vintage, were new ones constructed the same way as they were before the war. They typically were built on an open chassis (or even on a wood board) or at best, as rack-and-panel modular units mounted in an open relay rack or ordinary metal cabinet. Phone transmitters used amplitude modulation so viewers sometimes got a good clue about the source of picture disturbances when they were accompanied by a voice. A common reaction was, "It's that confounded amateur radio ham up the street again, Betsy!" Confrontations took place, like the time I received a telephone call while operating in contest on a Saturday afternoon. The unidentified caller simply shouted, "Shut up!" and then hung up.

In the beginning of the TVI debacle, hams didn't think they were doing anything wrong, and all the viewers knew was that their blissful pastime was being ruined by that d__ ham down the block. In reality there were two fundamental problems: 1) early TV receivers usually had "wide open" RF front ends that could not discriminate against out-of-band signals and, 2) amateur rigs radiated harmonics directly from the transmitter.

At first the problems were simply too overwhelming for many hams to "process" so they looked for an escape route that avoided a situation that was growing to overwhelming proportions.

If you ask a politician what to do when confronted by a tough question, his reply will be, "Change the conversation." That's what many hams around Philadelphia did; they avoided TVI by going to mobile operation, a principle motivation for establishing PMRC. By agreeing on use of a single frequency in the ten meter band, the club concentrated operation at one spot that could easily be monitored by fixed stations so mobiles could usually count on making a contact. Before long several dozen cars in the region were sporting an 8-foot whip on the rear bumper and fixed station receivers were monitoring The Frequency, Channel 1 on 29.493.2 Mc. Cost was modest for a mobile transmitter and a receiving converter feeding the car

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BC radio. Best of all, when you were on the road there was no TVI. Well, not exactly – there might be TVI, but it was fleeting as the mobile drove past. That phenomenon gave rise to a new sport among mischievous hams who delighted in driving along a suburban street so they could look into living rooms where images of TV programs flipped and rolled while they transmitted in motion. Not nice, maybe, but amusing and completely immune from that dreaded phone call. The new freedom gave birth to the name of the club newsletter, *TVI Retreat*, edited by George King, W3PXY. The name gradually morphed to the present title of our bulletin as it became commonly referred to as "the blurb."

Reputable TV receiver manufacturers finally acknowledged their error ignoring the importance of shielding and adequate front end filtering. They improved new models and offered upgrade kits for field installation by dealers. The FCC entered the fray with the proclamation that an amateur having a TV receiver in his house that was not affected by his own transmissions was absolved from responsibility for interference caused to neighbors' sets. Nevertheless, in cases of acute interference the ham might be forced by the Commission to observe quiet hours, say from 4PM to midnight – a draconian limitation that didn't go over very well.

In any event, those actions put the ball squarely in the amateur's court.

The challenge to eliminate amateur radio's contribution to TVI was met on several fronts. Articles in *QST* and new designs published in the *ARRL Handbook* stressed the necessity for thoroughly shielding transmitters and bypassing all connections entering and leaving the Tx. Articles showed liberal use of metal window screen covering ventilation openings, techniques for sealing physical gaps in the panels and doors of cabinets, and gave advice on design of power line and interface lead filtering. Traditional push-pull finals with link coupling were abandoned in favor of a single-ended configuration that lent itself to load matching with a pi-network, which also acted as a low pass filter to minimize harmonic output.

One of the most useful aids to amateurs for TVI reduction was a book published and distributed free by Phil Rand, W1DBM. It was a compilation of some *QST* articles and several chapters written by Phil describing all the techniques for elimination of TVI. Equipment manufacturers also responded with new products incorporating features that eliminated causes of TVI. For example, the Johnson *Viking II* 100 watt AM transmitter was housed in a copper plated cabinet with a tight fitting lid bonded to the case with beryllium copper finger stock. The back of the meter was shielded by a metal shield cup and every input and output lead was filtered with a series air-wound inductor and ceramic bypass capacitor. Complex coax low pass filters with very high attenuation above 30 Mc. became available from several manufacturers at reasonable prices for harmonic suppression in the transmitter output.

Finally, the ARRL established local TVI Committees made up of amateurs and private citizens to diplomatically resolve stubborn cases of TVI. The procedure generally followed was for a member of the TVI Committee to first visit the amateur. If the ham was unable to transmit without causing TVI in his own set, the case was put on hold until a subsequent visit from the committee showed the ham had eliminated his own TVI. On the other hand, if the amateur was able operate his transmitter without interference to his own TV set the committee member went to the home where TVI had been reported. If a test transmission resulted in TVI, the committee representative had the difficult task of convincing the complainant that their receiver was at fault, and they were responsible for obtaining a service technician to cure it. Similar problems also occurred with broadcast radios and telephones, for which the same procedure was followed.

TVI complaints gradually became manageable and when cable distribution eventually dominated off-air TV reception they practically disappeared. For several critical years, however, TVI was the bane of amateur radio, not to mention enjoyable TV viewing.

For Sale

*From The Estate of Frank Palladino W3FP
509 General Steuben Rd
Norristown, PA 19406*

6 Sections of tower totaling 52 feet includes 2 top sections and one foldover base and one rotor shelf.
Mosley TA33 triband beam 10-15-20
3- 5 element 2 meter beams/ 6ft. boom /27 inch balun RG58
432 ATV BEAM
432 KLM Satellite beam circular polarized with mast mounted preamp.
Kenpro elevation Rotor with controller and fiberglass boom for antenna mounting
TR44 rotor with control box and mast adaptor
CD 44 rotor with control box
Alliance 100 rotor with control box
6 Meter Homebrew rigid dipole
Contact Steve, WU3I

And ...

Optoelectronics FC-50 frequency counter,
ARRL handbooks 1933 - onward
Kreco 10 meter coaxial vertical antenna,
Antique headphones,
Multimeters,
and old technical books.

Contact Tom Bohlander WA3KLR, 215-536-1331

December at PMRC ...

4 Sun *K3XS NCS*
7 Wed *Board Meeting*
Pearl Harbor Day
10 Sat *VE morning test session*
11 Sun *KB3TEZ NCS*
14 Wed *General Meeting*
Elections
18 Sun *KB3SJS NCS*
21 Wed *Hanukkah Begins*
22 Thu *VE evening test session*
25 Sun *KB3IV NCS*
Christmas Day
31 Sat *New Year's Eve*

And don't forget the **ARES** net every Sunday night at 2100L and the new **Digital Net** Tuesdays at 1900L, both on W3QV/R

--... -- -.. . - . -.. -- -...

First Class Mail

Check out this rope for your antenna project –

3/32" Braided Olive Drab - Dacron / Polyester cord

This is a high quality braided polyester cord with a breaking strength of 210 pounds. Proudly Made in the U.S.A.!

This is a gorgeous solid braid perfect for dipole antennas. Very low stretch and strong. Will withstand the weather & sun for 7 to 10 years.

PRICE \$10.00 PER 100 FEET

SOLD IN 100 FOOT LOTS

CONTACT STEVE WU3I AT

WU3I@ARRL.NET

1700 Street Road, Apt H3, 18976
 The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc

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